GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2996
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Conversion of Barren Land into Fertile Land
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to turn barren land into fertile land and the extent to which the Government has achieved success in this regard, State-wise including Gujarat;
(b) the extent to which the set targets have been achieved regarding conversion of barren land into arable land in the 11th Five Year Plan;
(c) whether the said targets have not been achieved, and if so, the reasons therefore; and
(d) the strategy prepared and the action plan formulated by the Government on the basis of those reasons to convert barren land into arable land during the 12th Five Year Plan period?

Answer

MINISTER OFSTATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (d): With no specific programme implemented to turn barren land into fertile land, the Department does not maintain any centralized database or information with regard to such conversion.However, the Department had been implementing an area development programme i.e. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009 for development of rainfed / degraded areas in all the States of the country (except Goa) including Gujarat. The objectives of the IMWP programme are conservation of water, improving agriculture productivity and livelihood creation. The major activities taken up under the programme inter alia includes ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons. From the year 2015-16, the IWMP programme has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchaiYojana (WDC-PMKSY). As on 30.06.2016, a total of 8214 projects have been sanctioned in the country, covering an area of 39.07 million ha and an amount of Rs. 12821.66 Cr. has been released as central assistance to various states including Gujarat. As per the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects-2008 (Revised Edition-2011), the period of completing WDC-PMKSY projects is between 4-7 years. These projects are in different stages of implementation.

According to the information received from the Government of Gujarat, 35203.12 hectares of barren land have been cultivated into arable land during the 12th Five Year Plan.

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